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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRYUSSR

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SUBJECT

MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): An Important Problem

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An Important Problem
by
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A distinctive feature of future war, if one is unleashed, would be that the armed conflict will immediately encompass the entire territory of the belligerent states; the goals of war will be decided not only in the zone of combat actions of troops, as it was in the past, but primarily in the interior of the country by action against its vitally important installations and regions. Under conditions of missile/nuclear war the entire country is transformed into a single armed camp.

In connection with this, within the system of measures which ensure strengthening the defensive capability of the Soviet State, the role of civil defense has become exceptionally important.

As is emphasized in the Report on Civil Defense of the USSR, approved by the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers, civil defense is a nationwide system of defensive measures which are carried out in advance, in peacetime, for the purpose of protecting the population and the national economy from missile/nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons, and also for conducting rescue and urgent emergency restoration operations.

This need for civil defense commits our military-theoretical thought to directing very serious attention to working out the many practical problems of protecting the rear of the country from the effects of means of mass destruction and of ensuring its uninterrupted activity in the course of a war.

It should be noted that, in most of the research on strategy and operational art, questions of civil defense are examined very ineffectively and in a very general manner. There are no theoretical works in which the system of nationwide defense measures for protecting the populace and the national economy in a future missile/nuclear war has been discussed thoroughly.

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The only publication which dealt with these matters to any extent at all was the Information Collection of the Civil Defense Staff. However,

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this collection, consisting, as a rule, of two sections ("Exchange of Experience of Work on the Organization and Tactics of Civil Defense" and "Civil Defense Abroad"), was not able to suitably resolve the theoretical and practical problems of civil defense. Often, the material published in it was particularly informative, but it did not raise the profoundly important, acute problems of civil defense. The absence of articles by authors made it impossible to generate creative, truly scientific discussions of these problems. Even materials on exercises conducted within the civil defense system, in the overwhelming majority of cases, did not contain profound syntheses. Also, little light was thrown on questions of cooperation between staffs of military districts, formations, and large units and the civil defense system.

The interests of the further development of the theory and practice of civil defense could most fully be served by publication of a journal in which a wide range of authors, based on the modern level of the development of civil defense forces and means and its organizational forms, and taking into consideration its future prospects, could express their opinions, exchange experience, and raise new problems. Such a journal -- Civil Defense of the USSR -- was first published in 1962, replacing the Information Collection of the Civil Defense Staff.

In this article we will deal with the most important questions which are being examined on the pages of this Journal and which are of greatest interest to officers and generals.

Civil defense performs its tasks in close cooperation with all branches and branch arms of the armed forces. Many questions, for example, such as sheltering people and equipment from nuclear strikes and other means of mass destruction, organizing rescue and emergency restoration operations, and others are directly related to the actions of troops. Questions of civil defense are of special concern to generals and officers of operational staffs. Their knowledge of the fundamentals of its organization, structure and tasks to be performed has great significance in planning modern operations.

What, then, are the main questions posed on the pages of the Journal and how are they resolved?

The fundamental problems of civil defense were revealed in the editorial article, "Tirelessly Strengthening and Improving Civil Defense" (Issue No. 1) and in the article by Marshal of the Soviet Union V. I. Chuykov, "Performing Civil Defense Tasks Creatively", published as a

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supplement to the Journal.

A number of interesting problem questions are raised also in the article of Colonel General of Aviation O. Tolstikov, "Civil Defense Operations" (No. 5).

The editorial article acquaints the readers with the new status of civil defense in the USSR, from which it is apparent that the overall leadership of civil defense in the country is carried out by the Council of Ministers of the USSR. This is a graphic manifestation of the considerable attention which the Party and government devote to civil defense. The interrelationships of the Ministry of Defense, its facilities, military districts and chiefs of all garrisons with civil defense organs are shown. The basis of these interrelationships is the rendering of all types of assistance to state, economic, and local organs in carrying out civil defense measures.

The article provides positive examples of the work of the military councils of the Transbaykal, North Caucasus and Ural military districts in the area of civil defense, and mentions the great assistance rendered by the commander of the Turkestan Military District to the civil defense staff of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic in preparing and conducting the republic's command-staff exercise.

It is known that under conditions of war, civil defense is called upon to accomplish the following basic tasks: safeguard and protect the populace from means of mass destruction, and ensure the operation of the national economy and uninterrupted control of all life of the country.

The article quite correctly emphasizes that "among the many problems which civil defense is called upon to resolve, protecting the populace from means of mass destruction occupies the primary place" (p. 11). Unfortunately, however, a totally obsolete recommendation is given for solving this problem. On Page 12 (No. 1) it is stated that "the basic means for protecting the populace from weapons of mass destruction at present are various shelters".

This view is a reflection of the experience of the last war, when it was necessary to protect the populace from high-explosive bombs. But, the appearance and continuous improvement of nuclear weapons creates a completely new new situation. Today it is impossible to build shelters which would remain intact close to ground zero of high-yield nuclear bursts. Besides this, we cannot depend upon the mass construction of

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antinuclear shelters for economic reasons.

Ways of solving problems of protecting the populace in a future missile/nuclear war are shown in the article by the Chief of Civil Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union V. I. Chuykov, "Performing Civil Defense Tasks Creatively". On the basis of an analysis of the possible situation which may result from enemy missile/nuclear strikes, the author shows convincingly that, in our time, shelters cannot be the "...main means of protecting the populace..." (p. 5). Therefore, he writes, the main method for accomplishing this task "...until such time as we find more improved methods of protection or until we devise a perfect means for combating missile/nuclear weapons, can only be dispersal" (p. 6). While emphasizing the decisive role of dispersal, Marshal Chuykov also points out: "it would be incorrect, however, to maintain that the problem of protecting the populace of cities can be resolved by dispersal alone. For this purpose, of course, it is necessary to use various shelters" (p. 8).

The article further focuses attention on the extreme overcrowding in our major cities and suggests relieving them now in peacetime to the maximum extent by removing children's and medical facilities, especially extended-care hospitals and educational institutions, to a non-urban zone.

The weakest link in protecting the populace from radioactive contamination by tracking the movement of clouds from nuclear bursts is forecasting the movement of the radioactive clouds. A proposal is put forth in the article for using the existing meteorological observation system for carrying out this task, and for producing more reliable and inexpensive devices for radiation reconnaissance.

It should be emphasized that the solution to this problem has great significance for protecting not only the civilian populace, but also the troops deployed in these areas, from radioactive contamination.

In examining questions of the protection and support of the steady operation of installations of the national economy under conditions of nuclear war, Marshal of the Soviet Union Chuykov proposes dispersing them to the maximum extent, more widely introducing into practice the placement of the most important plant shops and power installations underground, reducing reserves of fuel and materials which may explode, and refraining from the practice of building important industrial installations in zones of possible flooding from the destruction of major hydraulic engineering complexes. These recommendations also concern the location of military units, various depots and bases, and facilities. 50X1-HUM

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The problem of ensuring uninterrupted control of all political and economic life of the country with forces and means of civil defense is of great importance. Particular difficulties arise with the withdrawal of control organs to alternate command posts. However, as it is correctly pointed out in the article, it is impossible to resolve this problem by setting up communications systems with all ministries, agencies, and national economic councils. It is necessary mainly to rely on the means of the Ministry of Communications and the presence of its own reserve radio means in case individual communications links are put out of service.

Civil defense has special units and subunits for conducting emergency rescue and restoration operations. However, some of these forces and means are clearly inadequate. Therefore, as the article emphasizes, most of these operations will be carried out by non-military civil defense contingents made up of factory and office workers from corresponding industrial installations, and also from the rural population. The author offers specific proposals for the composition, equipping, and training of these contingents and also for their utilization.

In order for civil defense to carry out its tasks successfully during the period of threat and at the onset of war, it is extremely important to prepare the people in advance and instruct them in methods of protection from means of mass destruction and in actions for eliminating the aftereffects of an enemy attack. The basic role in carrying out this task belongs to organizations of the All-Union Voluntary Society for Cooperation with the Army, Navy, and Air Force (DOSAAF). However, there are many serious deficiencies in this work. The article "Tirelessly Strengthening and Improving Civil Defense" (No. 1) discusses this matter.

The problem of training command cadres for non-military contingents is especially acute. In the article by G. Malinin, I. Kutyurin, and V. Rozanov, "Urgent Tasks of Modern Defense in Rural Localities", published in Journal No. 2, it is noted that DOSAAF civil defense schools are now enlisted for this purpose. However, as the authors correctly point out, chiefs of civil defense of republics, krais, and oblasts and their staffs must become the organizers for training the command personnel for their own contingents.

In the article "Civil Defense Operations" (No. 5) Colonel General of Aviation Tolstikov poses a question about the forms of operational employment of civil defense forces for carrying out rescue and urgent emergency restoration operations, in the event of destruction of the most important economic regions and administrative-political centers of the

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country.

The author considers it advisable to extend a number of categories of operational art to civil defense. In particular, he proposes introducing the concept of a "civil defense operation" as the totality of actions in one or several areas of various military and non-military groupings of civil defense forces and Soviet Army troops, the Ministry of Defense (sic-for Protection) of Public Order and the KGB, united by a single concept and directed toward achieving a single goal -- rescuing people and valuable materiel and establishing conditions for restoring disrupted production.

The preparation and planning of the initial operations of civil defense, according to General Tolstikov, must be carried out in peacetime, in close liaison with the military command.

The legitimacy of certain of the questions raised in the article should stimulate great interest and broad discussion in the pages of the Journal. Hopefully, the editorial board has organized comments on this article from generals and officers of the troops.

A positive aspect of the work of the Journal is that it seriously poses and resolves questions of operational training and combat training of civil defense, summarizes the experience of exercises which have been conducted, and seeks ways for improving the methods of conducting them. The lead article, "Bringing Operational Training up to the Level of Modern Requirements" (No. 2) is dedicated to this matter, as are the articles by Colonel General of Aviation Tolstikov, "Widely Using the Experience of Exercises in Practical Work" (No. 4), and General-Mayor of Aviation K. Vinogradov, "Certain Conclusions and Generalizations on the Experience of a Civil Defense Exercise" (No. 1), in which the authors examine the experience of exercises conducted in the Latvian and Estonian republics.

In the articles the reader will find quite a few valuable recommendations on the work of republic civil defense staffs and on the methods for setting up and conducting exercises.

As has already been mentioned, the Journal devotes a great deal of attention to cooperation between civil defense staffs and the staffs of military districts, to joint exercises of civil defense forces and the troops, and to the work of the civil defense departments of military districts. In the article by General-Mayor A. Yevdan and Lieutenant Colonel M. Vasin, "Experience of the Work of the Civil Defense Department

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of the Transbaykal Military District" (No. 1), it was shown, for example, how the organization of the work of the department proceeded, and how communications and interrelationships with civil defense organs in autonomous republics and oblasts located within the territory of the district took shape. Primary attention was directed toward the establishment of a control and communications system, measures for protecting the populace against weapons of mass destruction, toward the planning of evacuations, combat training and equipping of non-military contingents, assistance to civil defense staffs and evacuation committees of autonomous republics, oblasts and cities in organizing and conducting exercises, and various other measures for refining civil defense plans.

The authors share the experience of the first joint command-staff exercise of the Transbaykal Military District and the civil defense staff of Chita Oblast, which was conducted in October 1961.

It should be pointed out that the experience of the Transbaykal Military District in resolving questions of civil defense was approved by the Chief of Civil Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union V. I. Chuykov, and was recommended for dissemination. It is gratifying that the Journal was not slow in publishing an article on this subject.

The interesting experience of the joint civil defense exercise with the participation of the troops, which was conducted in Omsk Oblast, is discussed in the article by Colonel S. Akimov (No. 2). The staff of the Siberian Military District provided considerable assistance in preparing and conducting the exercise, especially in moving the heavy equipment of the composite detachments of the rural locality.

During the exercise, rescue and urgent emergency restoration operations were carried out in cooperation with units of the Omsk garrison, for which representatives of the units were placed in the civil defense command post of the city of Omsk and the oblast. Through them tasks were assigned to the troops for assisting contingents at installations in conducting rescue operations in the raions of the city. At the same time, representatives of raion contingents were placed in installations of the Ministry of Defense, where they received tasks for assisting these installations in conducting rescue operations.

On the basis of this exercise, the author of the article drew the completely correct conclusion that "...only the practical participation of troops and officers of the garrison in civil defense exercises allows them to acquire the necessary experience in assisting stricken installations" 50X1-HUM

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(pp. 41-42).

In our view, this conclusion is deserving of complete approval. This should probably be in accord with the opinion of Colonel S. Akimov that it is advisable to introduce at least a brief civil defense course into the training program of military units.

The first steps of the Journal in developing methods of cooperation between the civil defense system and troops and in summarizing joint exercises shows that this work should be continued with even greater attention being paid to these aspects. At present we already have experience in conducting major operational exercises with the participation of civil defense staffs. Command-staff exercises in the Transcaucasus, Turkestan and Leningrad military districts provided a wealth of material, which should be studied and summarized in order to work out the most acceptable recommendations on all questions of civil defense. After all, such important and complex problems as coordinating on the use of transportation routes and the maintenance of materiel reserves, ensuring uninterrupted mutual exchange of information about the situation, organizing mutual assistance in conducting rescue operations and restoring damaged areas, and other problems, await their resolution. It is quite obvious that the Journal must take a leading role in working out all of these questions.

The editorial board publishes a great deal of material on scientific-technical and other special matters. We will not dwell on them in detail. However, it should be mentioned that certain articles, for example those such as "Determining Losses and the Amount of Damage in Centers of Nuclear Destruction with the Use of Electronic Computers", "Employment of Buried Antennas in the Civil Defense Communications System" (No. 1), "Charts of Average Winds and Their Use in Determining the Track of a Radioactive Cloud" (No. 3), and others also are of specific interest to the military reader.

Significant space in the pages of the Journal is given to materials on how matters of civil defense are resolved in leading capitalist countries. And this is proper. Our readers should know that the ruling circles of such capitalist countries as the US and West Germany, which are strenuously engaging in preparations for a new world war, devote a great deal of attention to civil defense.

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In the summer of 1961, the US Congress examined the matter of reorganizing civil defense; the responsibility for this was entrusted to

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the Secretary of Defense. A special organ, "The Office of Emergency Planning", was set up to work out problems and programs of civil defense throughout the country and coordinate the civil defense measures of the various federal agencies. Vast amounts of money are spent on civil defense needs.

The same intensive preparation is going on in West Germany. There this work is carried out on the basis of the law, "Measures for Protecting the Civilian Populace", which was passed in October 1957. The law stipulates mandatory enlistment of men ages 18 to 65 and of women ages 18 to 50 for civil defense service. Materials on these and other questions of civil defense in capitalist countries can be read in the first three issues of the Journal for 1962. Of the greatest interest is the information in "Civil Defense of the Federal Republic of Germany" and "Certain Problems of Antiradiation Protection" (from the American point of view), published in Issue No. 2. However, these articles are not without certain shortcomings. Thus, in the information on civil defense of the Federal Republic of Germany nothing is said about the structure of contingents. But, it does have something instructive for resolving this question -- that the contingents are small in composition, extremely maneuverable, and provided with the necessary equipment.

It should be mentioned that a general shortcoming of the materials in this section of the Journal is excessive information with a lack of critical analysis and identification of both the strong and weak points. For example, the review, "Antichemical and Antibacteriological Protection" (from the American point of view), published in Issue No. 4, is of extremely limited use.

Quite often materials are published which are clearly of secondary importance. There is hardly a need for separate information on the reorganization of the civil defense of Holland (No. 3), or on an exercise conducted in Stockholm (No.1). In our view, it is more advisable to provide general-survey articles on those matters, in which the material dealt with is the most interesting and fundamental.

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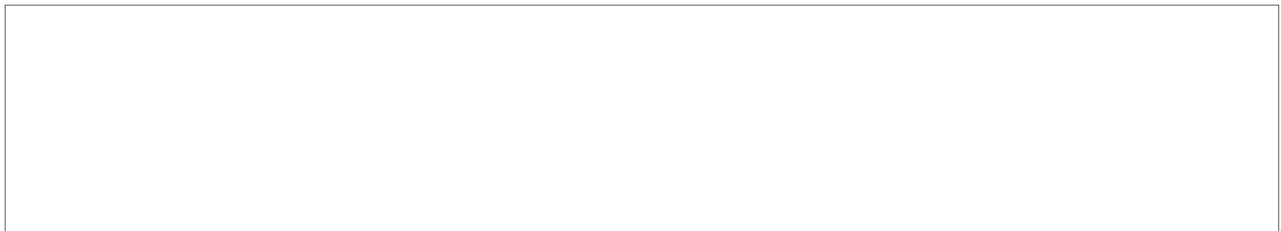


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In conclusion it must be mentioned that, on the whole, the Journal is on the correct path, makes its contribution in solving the very important problem of strengthening the defensive capability of the country, and fully deserves the attention of the military reader.

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